

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 OIC-02 FEA-01 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 SWF-01 EUR-12 /104 W

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R 211422Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3764

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 8695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EC

SUBJECT: BANANAS: ECUADOREAN POSITION AS STATED AT BOGOTA FAO MEETING.

REF: BOGOTA 10851

1. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE IN EL TIEMPO, IN SPEECH EXPLAINING GOE POSITION AT END OF FAO-SPONSORED MEETING IN BOGOTA, ECUADOREAN SUB-SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND INTEGRATION (AND CURRENTLY ACTING MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE) COL. RICHELIEU LEVOYER ARTIEDA STRESSED NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT LINKING ALL BANANA-PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND MOST IMPORTANT CONSUMER COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO END MARKET DISTORTION AND A CONTINUING EROSION OF PRICES. LEVOYER POINTED OUT THAT SUPPLY CONTINUES TO EXCEED DEMAND BY MORE THAN ONE MILLION METRIC TONS, DESPITE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE FIFI.

2. IN ADDITION TO SUGGESTING CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, LEVOYER POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATING BANANA SALES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSUMING COUNTRIES. HEAD OF ECUADOREAN DELEGATION, FOREIGN TRADE

DIRECTOR DR. GUILLERMO CARTAGENA STATED, HOWEVER, THAT SUBJECT OF UNION OF BANANA EXPORTING COUNTRIES (UBEC) WAS NOT TREATED AT MEETING SINCE MEETING WAS OPEN TO ALL UN MEMBERS. ECUADOREAN DELEGATION HOWEVER SPOKE WITH COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, AND PANAMA DELEGATES ON MUTUAL COOPERATION AND TO IMPRESS UPON THEM NEED TO PLACE MORE IMPORTANCE ON TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS. (SEE REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: WHILE GOE DELEGATION EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH UBEC COUNTRIES AT MEETING, AND CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BANANA PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, WE NOTE THAT LEVOYER REFRAINED FROM MENTION OF UBEC PER SE AS REPRESENTATIVE ORGAN OF PRODUCERS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, THEREFORE THAT DELEGATION STATEMENTS INDICATE ANY NARROWING OF GAP BETWEEN GOE AND UBEC ON QUESTION OF BANANA TAX OR ECUADOR'S ADHERENCE TO UBEC.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, AGREEMENTS, PRESS COMMENTS, BANANAS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO08695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740372-0326
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741216/aaaaanua.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 BOGOTA 10851
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANANAS: ECUADOREAN POSITION AS STATED AT BOGOTA FAO MEETING.
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EC, (LEVOYER ARTIEDA, RICHELIEU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005